

The Bulletin



CONGREGATION
B'NAI ISRAEL

Congregation B'nai Israel, Elizabeth, NJ - Affiliated 1992

January/February 2022

ON A SUMMER'S DAY

Chaim Nachman Bialik

When high noon on a summer's day
makes the sky a fiery furnace
and the heart seeks a quiet corner for dreams,
then come to me, my weary friend.

A shady carob grows in my garden –
green, remote from the city's crowds –
whose foliage whispers secrets of God.
Good my brother, let's take refuge.

Pleasure and tenderness let us share
in the sweet hidden prime of noon,
and the mystery golden rays reveal
when sunlight pierces the rich shade.

When the black cold of a winter's night
bruises you with its icy pinch
and frost sticks knives in your shivering flesh,
then come to me. blessed of God.

My dwelling is modest, lacking splendour,
but warm and bright and open to strangers.
A fire's in the grate, on the table a candle –
my lost brother, stay and get warm.

When we hear a cry in the howling storm
we will think of the destitute starving outside.
We will weep for them – honest pitiful tears.
Good friend, my brother, let us embrace.

But when autumn approaches with rain and cloud
and the roof leaks and there's moth in the heart
and the desolate world sinks, sullen, in mire,
then merciful brother, leave me alone.

I would be alone in the barren time
when the heart withers in slow decay.
Unseen. Unknown. No stranger understands.
Let me grieve alone in my silent pain.

© Translation: 1981, Ruth Nevo
From: Chaim Nachman Bialik: The Selected Poems
Publisher: Dvir, Tel Aviv, 1981, 965-01-0053-9

Thoughts? Comments? Questions? Words of Inspiration?

We'd love to hear from you!

Reach out to us www.cbi-nj.org

January Service Times, Candle Lighting

Additional Shabbat Programs (Please note earlier start time now in place through March):

Friday, December 31

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat

4:21 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, January 1

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering

5:08 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, January 7

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat

4:28 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, January 8

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering

5:15 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, January 14

Sisterhood Shabbat, Zoom only Friday evening

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat

4:35 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, January 15

Sisterhood Shabbat, Zoom only Saturday morning

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering

5:22 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, January 21

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat

4:43 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, January 22

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering

5:00 pm – B'not Mitzvah of

Poppy & Stella Meiler - PM

5:30 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, January 28

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat

4:51 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, January 29

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering

5:38 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

President's Message

By Jamey Potechin



With the winter months upon us, I am glad to report that we have finally dealt with all the heating issues in the building, whether related to the boilers needed to heat the sanctuary, fixing the furnace units on our roof or just figuring out how to manage the myriad thermostats spread throughout the building.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our flood czar, Jamie Beneroff, and the facilities committee, our flood repairs should be just about completed by the time this bulletin is issued. What a relief to have the full use of our pre-school classrooms, clergy offices and the multi-purpose room!

As the building gets back to normal, we are trying to ease back into a routine that is closer to our pre-Covid days, with more in-person meetings in the building and opportunities to congregate in person. We continue to maintain our popular series of get-togethers for shabbat services and dinner, even as we move indoors. With the addition of BimBam Shabbat and an early dinner seating, we welcome the participation of our young families and look forward to their continued growth as members of our community. In the coming months, we can look forward to Sisterhood and Men's Club shabbat to brighten our days during the dark winter months.

I am always cognizant of the risks we take physically in coming together and emotionally in not coming together. Balancing these risks is a highly personal choice, and we have to respect each other's individual choices. I look to one of my favorite passages from Pirkei Avot for guidance, a single sentence that is amazingly compact in Hebrew and captures a world of wisdom. "If I am not for myself, who will be? If I am for myself, what am I?" I have to take personal responsibility for my well-being and cannot expect others to advocate for me if I am not taking care of myself. At the same time, I cannot be too self-centered and ignore the needs of others around me. Applying this passage to our current situation, I hope to create as many opportunities as possible for people to choose the best way for themselves to engage in our community, both in person and on-line. At the same time, we have to look out for each other. This means getting vaccinated and adhering to policies like masking and social distancing that protect others who may be at higher risk or who just need the extra reassurance to feel comfortable at in-person gatherings.

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Letter from the Rabbi

By Rabbi Ari Isenberg



One of the more infamous, albeit humorous, stories of military folklore is that of the supposed orders being sent by a British unit in World War I. The order, communicated by radio, was sent as, "Send reinforcements, we are going to advance", but was received by military headquarters as, "Send Three and Fourpence, we are going to a dance".

Alas, best efforts at effective communication only go so far. So, too, at CBI. I recently wanted to send joyous greetings to a congregant on the occasion of a milestone birthday. When I dialed the cell phone number I had on file, I encountered a French pastry chef who had recently moved to the area. It would seem that our congregant's old cell phone number was still on file. Naturally, I inquired about the pastries. Not all was lost.

One of the features of my rabbinate is that I strive to strengthen the bonds of community through communication and contact. The key to this is having accurate contact and membership information. The records we maintain at the synagogue are critical tools for engaging you in communal life. Whether it's having accurate *yahrzeit* information, knowing the birthdays of your family members, having your current home address, cell phone number, email address, Hebrew name, and so forth. This information will allow us to keep you connected to all CBI happenings and will ensure that we can reach you in our efforts to strengthen the bonds of community.

Thankfully, we now have a dedicated team in the office ready to verify your membership information. We are also in the midst of migrating to newer database software that will, among other things, ensure the protection of your information. With this in mind, we ask that you please contact our office when you have a few minutes to spare and we'll walk you through what we have on file pertaining to your membership information. You can then confirm and/or update the information.

We're living in transient times. CBI remains your foundation. Help us ensure that we have your most up-to-date information so that we can fortify the bonds of community and your ties to CBI, amid the fast-paced and transient world in which we live.

Take five minutes and call our office today to verify the accuracy of your membership information in our files.

With gratitude and my best wishes for finding all sources of warmth this winter,

Rabbi Ari Isenberg



To contact Rabbi Isenberg,
email him at rabbi@cbi-nj.org

February Service Times, Candle Lighting

Additional Shabbat Programs (Please note earlier start time now in place through March):

Friday, February 4

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
5:00 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, February 5

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
5:47 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, February 11

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
5:09 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, February 12

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
Shabbat Services led by Men's Club 9:30 am @ In Person, Zoom, and LiveStream
5:56 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, February 18

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
5:17 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, February 19

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
6:04 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, February 25

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
5:25 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, February 26

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
6:12 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after



Musical Notes

By Cantor Lorna Wallach



According to the Shulchan Aruch (Code of Jewish Law) a Cantor should have a beard, which, in those times, was considered a sign of piety. Thirty five years ago when I decided to apply to Cantorial school, if I had taken this literally, I would not be serving as CBI's or anybody's Cantor right now! Now 30 years after graduating from the Cantorial School at The Jewish Theological Seminary, I am excited to share with you, my beloved CBI community, that I have been invited by the Chancellor of JTS, Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz (the 1st woman to serve as Chancellor in JTS's 135 year history!) to receive an Honorary Doctorate in Jewish Music. I feel truly honored to be amongst 36 distinguished colleagues to be recognized for our contributions to our congregations and to the Conservative Movement at a special convocation ceremony which will take place on **Feb. 2nd, 2022 (2/2/22) at 3:30PM**. Anyone who is interested can register at <https://inspired.jtsa.edu/cantorialconvocation2022> and watch it on Livestream.

Honor is an important value in Judaism. We not only honor God, but we are also commanded to honor our parents, and to honor all of God's creations, the earth, our teachers, the elderly, and we honor our Biblical ancestors (in our prayers).

In Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers), at the end of Mishna 1 of Chapter 4, Ben Zoma says, "Who is honored? Those who honor others." It is natural for people to seek honor from their fellow human beings. However, the rabbis consistently warn that honor cannot be acquired by one who pursues it. In fact, the sages warn that if you pursue honor, it will flee from you. (*Midrash Tanhuma*) They also offer the opposite maxim that if you flee from



honor, the honor pursues you.

There is a Ladino proverb that says, "Honor is more appropriate for those who share it than for those who hoard it." I didn't seek out this honor from JTS, but I humbly and sincerely share it with all of you in the CBI community. While serving as your Hazzan (Cantor) these past 23 years, each of you (and your children!) has given me the opportunity to be your Sh'lichat Tzibbur (literally "the messenger of the community"), and to teach you, guide you, rejoice with you, comfort you and to help you achieve heightened spirituality and feel a closer connection to the Divine. And you have been my teachers as well. With your support, feedback and patience, I have (I hope!) continued to hone my skills and to do my best to serve the needs of the congregation.

It is my hope that as your Cantor, I will have the wisdom and sensitivity to continue to be able to inspire you in prayer and Jewish learning, to build and deepen relationships within our community, and to have the privilege of being part of your lives and special lifecycle events for many more years to come!

Mazal Tov on our special honor from JTS and thank you for sharing it with me!

Cantor Lorna Wallach



To contact Cantor Wallach,
email her at cbicantor@cbi-nj.org

From the Executive Director

By Paul Gibilisco

I started at CBI as your Executive Director ten weeks ago, full of optimism! As part of a talented team of Clergy, Staff, and Lay Leadership, I am doing my part to keep our Shul operating smoothly. We are repairing damage to our building from Ida and remediating damage to the Ash trees from the Emerald Ash Borer beetle. CBI is moving to a new cloud-based CRM system (ShulCloud). We have applied for security grants which we received! Finally, we are developing the operational budget for our next fiscal year.

What keeps me optimistic is our collective resilience. The onset of the Coronavirus has challenged us to reinvent how we bring community and the practice of Judaism to our congregation. We have all risen to the challenge, as we have since the beginning of Judaism. We are living in a “Yavneh” moment. In the first century C. E., the practice of Judaism relocated from the ancient Temple in Jerusalem to the home and synagogue. At this moment, Covid is a catalyst that influences how we practice Judaism. Technology is helping us stay connected during Covid and reshaping how we reach out to our membership. We are moving beyond the synagogue walls to include our phones, tablets, and laptops to conduct meetings, programs, and services via Zoom!

I am here to create processes and an environment that allows CBI to operate more efficiently, but I hope to do more. With the Clergy, Lay Leadership, and Staff, I hope to increase opportunities for members to connect as a Kehillah. I compartmentalize Covid as just one more challenge that we will overcome.



I have enjoyed meeting many congregants and look forward to meeting those of you whom I have not yet met. Please feel free to stop by my office or call. If I do not appear to be in an optimistic mood, please remind me about this article.

As we say when we finish reading a book in the Torah: “Chazak chazak v’nitchazek,” be strong, be strong, let us strengthen one another. Together we will meet the challenges of 2022.

Paul Gibilisco



Tuesdays &
Thursdays
9:30-11 am

Transitional Twos

with Rochelle & Gerri

For children born between October 1, 2019 and March 1, 2020
Accompanied by an adult for the first few weeks
Congregation B'nai Israel
160 Millburn Avenue, Millburn 07041

16 Weeks
January 18-
May 19, 2022

To register: www.cbipreschool.com

\$1050

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL www.cbi-nj.org
973-262-3717

From the Director of Congregational Learning

By Rabbi Julie Schwarzwald



BBRS

While we can't wait to be in our regular classroom space finally in January, as the weather got colder we have made good use of all available space at CBI. Meeting in the sanctuary, chapel, Motherwell lobby, social hall, hall outside

the clergy offices, and the napping/resting rooms for the preschool has only been effective because of the amazing flexibility and adaptability of our teachers - with the incredible support of our madrichim - and Susan Kashan's coordination of all the logistics.

Our Sunday program with TSS celebrated Hanukkah on December 5 with activities, games, and digital escape rooms. On Tuesdays, BBRS 3rd through 6th graders focus on Hebrew and Tefillah/Prayer, while 7th graders have begun learning with Rabbi Isenberg (with gratitude to Cantor Wallach for filling in during his leave).

Shabbat Shelanu on December 18 included the presentation of siddurim to our 3rd through 5th graders and learning about Bal Tashchit/Do Not Destroy ahead of Tu Bishvat.

CBIP

Our two two-year-old classes will be full as of January with 10 children in each! The transformation as they start as crying children who have had virtually no exposure to anything outside the home as "pandemic babies," to children so excited to run into school and greet their teachers, has been a joy to observe. We can't wait to move downstairs into our regular classrooms, finally, hopefully, in January. The entire staff has been absolutely amazing as we have been displaced for far longer than we anticipated.

Early Childhood Programs

Our Tkiya Wee Jam music class for babies through five-year-olds, has opened registration for our winter indoor sessions and our spring outdoor sessions. We are offering two class times, Sunday at 10 am and Wednesday

at 11 am. As with the fall, we will add additional classes as needed.

Bim Bam Shabbat continues to meet monthly on Fridays at 4:30 pm, now paired with our wonderful sponsored Shabbat dinners! It is amazing to see so many young families meeting each other and our CBI community!

Pre-K Jewish Adventures is a monthly Sunday morning program for families with 3- to 5-year olds focusing on holidays as a "taste" of Sunday school. We learned about Hanukkah in November and Tu Bishvat in December. Looking forward to Rosh Hodesh in January and Purim in February!

Teens

We have compiled a list of CBI teens who are interested in babysitting. This list is available to CBI members. Email Rabbi Julie, RabbiJulie@cbi-nj.org, if you would like a copy. And if you are teen who is not yet on the list, ask Rabbi Julie for the form to fill out!

Tichon, our formal teen education program, continues with new Mitzvah Modules as Rabbi Isenberg leads the class. In January they will begin with text study about Hiddur Penai Zaken/Honoring the Elderly and then complete a project for our friends at Daughters of Israel. February focuses on Contemporary Kashrut/Mindfulness in How We Eat and will involve a supermarket scavenger hunt for the food pantry.

Youth Groups

Youth groups - Chaverim for 4th and 5th graders, Kadima for 6th through 8th graders, and USY for 9th through 12th graders - are well underway with their regular program schedule under the incredible leadership of Aly and Michael Greenstein. These groups continue to provide amazing opportunities for our youth to socialize within and beyond CBI.

Lifelong Learning

It's not too late to join Rabbi Akiba Lubow's *Talmud Class* on Zoom Monday evenings, 7:30 to 9:00 pm! This

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Congregational Learning

continued from page 6

year we will be studying three topics, learning how the very foundations of Judaism impact the way we live Judaism today: Origins of Jewish Worship, Origins of Jewish Theology, and Origins of Medical & Health Issues in Jewish Tradition.

Monday Morning Modules continue on January 3, 10, 24, and 31 with a fascinating new topic, *The Afterlife in Jewish Tradition and Lore*, presented by Len Hausman. While the topic of the afterlife may sound, well, funereal - it is anything but! In exploring texts, traditions and folklore relating to death and its aftermath from antiquity up to our present day, we also gain insight into central questions about life, memory, prayer and God

that our ancestors struggled with, and maybe us as well. Join us in this journey into an area not often discussed yet richly interesting and fascinating.

Rabbi Isenberg resumes discussing The Upright Path - How Pirkei Avot Can Transform Our Lives on Thursday mornings beginning January 6. In the first weeks of the upcoming session, we'll dive into Chapter 3 of Pirkei Avot. Want to know the source for why we pray for our government during Shabbat morning services? Curious about what is appropriate dinner conversation? How should we stay safe when walking outdoors at night? Chapter 3 answers all of these questions and more...

Rabbi Julie Schwarzwald



To contact Rabbi Schwarzwald,
email her at rabbijulie@cbi-nj.org

President's Message

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If you have not already done so, please drop in to meet our new executive director, Paul Gibilisco. While he is new to the role of executive director, he comes to us with a great set of skills and enthusiasm for his work. He has joined us for many events and shabbat services and would love to get to know the congregation.

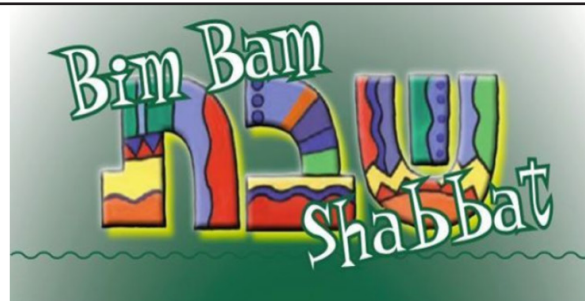
Please mark your calendars for the first weekend in March, when we will hold both an installation for Rabbi Isenberg and a gala to welcome the Isenberg Family to our community. The Gala committee is hard at work preparing for this event and we look forward to celebrating together.

Wishing everyone safe passage through the winter months and that we don't have to learn any more letters of the Greek alphabet!

Jamey Potechin



To contact Jamey Potechin,
email him at cbipresident@cbi-nj.org



**A special Shabbat experience
just for 0-5 year olds and their
adult companions!**

**Join Rabbi Julie & special guests for
Shabbat songs and stories**

Friday 4:30-5:00 pm

**January 21, February 11, March 25,
April 29, May 20**

RSVP to RabbiJulie@cbi-nj.org



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B'NAI ISRAEL

160 Millburn Avenue, Millburn, NJ 07041

rabbijulie@cbi-nj.org

973-262-3717

www.cbi-nj.org

MEN'S CLUB

By David Touger and Craig Rothman,
Men's Club Co-Presidents



David Touger and Craig Rothman

Men's Club is still on a high from our Annual Chanukah Party. It was great to have everyone together again singing, dancing and eating to celebrate the holiday and congratulate Dan Dovdavyan as our Man of the Year. Everyone had a great time and safely came and went.

Men's Club basketball is in full throttle as we are playing at Hartshorn School on Monday and Wednesday evenings. It is a fun night of pickup basketball. If you want to join us just let me know and I will get you on the email chain. All skill levels are welcome. It is a great way to burn off those holiday meals this time of year.

We are also looking forward to and planning Men's Club Shabbat which this year is on February 11th and 12th. We will be hosting a free Shabbos dinner on Friday night followed by Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv services. We will then have Shabbat morning services followed by a wonderful catered Shabbat lunch. Please keep on the lookout for further information as the date draws closer. If you want to have a part in the services, please let me know and we will sign you right up. But whether you are participating by leading a prayer, reading torah or leading a service or not, mark your calendars now and come and join us for a wonderfully fun and inspirational service and some good food to boot.

If you have any suggestions for future Men's Club events or want to join the Men's Club Board, just drop me an email and we will get you involved, I can guarantee you, you won't regret it.

Hope everyone had a wonderful Chanukah and let me wish you and yours a happy and healthy New Year.

David Touger,
dtouger@aol.com
Craig Rothman
craig231rothman@gmail.com
Men's Club Co-Presidents

**WEE JAM @CBI!**

Wednesdays @11 starting 1/5/22
Sundays @10 starting 1/9/22



- Singing
- Movement
- Stories
- Puppets
- Bubbles
- ...and more!



**For more info and to register:**
<https://bit.ly/TkiyaCBI>
or email Rabbijulie@cbi-nj.org

160 Millburn Ave
Millburn, NJ



WELCOME

We are thrilled to welcome the newest additions to our CBI family!

Rachel Astalos
Will and Esther Brown
Faran and Sid Efromovich
Dan Ambrosio and Rachel Elinsky
Brett and Brittney Fischer
Helen Goldfinger
Brian and Suzi Jacoby
Rem and Robin Johannsen
Daniel and Alyssa Kane
Dan Guan and Lauren Kasiaz

Liron Lerman and Dora Leib
Jim Charatan and Jessica Marinoff
Joe and Brett and Newman
John Macaluso and Andrea Partland-Macaluso
Oded Naaman and Liat Shetret
Evan and Maggie Soff
David Spacht and Shari Astalos
Tim and Erica Van Harn
Aaron and Melissa Wernick
Ronen and Paula Yair

We look forward to getting to know you and wish you many happy & healthy years as valued members of our community!

Yahrzeit Donors – through February 2022

Ruth Dobrowski
 Henry Bloom
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 Susan Margulies
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 Ann Eisenstadt
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Nancy & Allan Sloan
 Michael Cohen
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 Cohen
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 Lili & Victor Goltsman
 Evelyn Schachtel

Honoring the Yahrzeit of your loved one is as important to you as it is for the CBI clergy and administrative team. If you have noticed an error with your Yahrzeit records, please reach out to Joi Noel at jnoel@cbi-nj.org or by phone at 973-379-3811.

SISTERHOOD'S MESSAGE

By Debbie Toplansky and Lisa Friedman, Sisterhood Co-Presidents



Debbie Toplansky and Lisa Friedman

We want to start by wishing you all a happy and healthy 2022.

Reflecting on our past Chanukah and the changes of this past year and more, I was thinking about the word “light”.

Light “is the brightness that lets you see.” It illuminates and ignites.

The brightness of the joys of Chanukah surely helped us to see that each candle or source of light is an opportunity for us to see the warmth and connection we have with each other.

We are a source of light for each other and we want to encourage our sisterhood of sisters to feel that.

There are many ways to do this.

We have learned and been enriched by our **Rosh Chodesh programs** led by Linda Silver and Debbie Marcus. During our November Rosh Chodesh talk and presentation, we learned experiencing the Mikvah is an enriching, spiritual part of being Jewish. This ritual has been an integral part of our past and a vibrant part of our present. Some participants also shared their personal experiences which moved and inspired us.

At our December Rosh Chodesh, we learned about Judith- was she a heroine of Chanukah?

We explored the artwork depicting the Judith story over many centuries starting in the 16th century with Michelangelo and Titian. We were also treated with Cantor Wallach who led us in many Chanukah songs. It was festive and ... illuminating.

We hope that you have joined us on our January 5th



Rosh Chodesh and the others that will follow this year.

Sisterhood Shabbat will ignite and illuminate us this January 14-15. We will share in prayer, song, fun (yes, there is a skit coming), meaning and

connection. We will start our sisterhood of sisters gathering to lead our Kabbalat Shabbat services on Friday evening via Zoom and continue on Shabbat morning for more joy and light.

Please reach out to Chaya Cohen and Miriam Linver for more information and ways to participate.

We will continue our line-up of opportunities to connect with our on-going **Knit, Knosh & Needlework, Canasta, and Mah Jongg** programming.

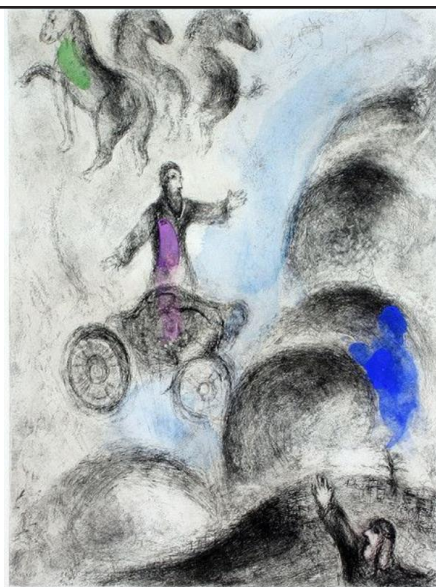
For our upcoming book talk, **Bookends, on Thursday, January 27**, we will be discussing “The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem” by Sarit Yishai-Levi. It will surely be an interesting and lively discussion... start your reading! Please reach out to Susan Stern if you would like more information on this and/or have ideas for other book talks and programs.

Wanted to also mention that our **gift shop** as been rockin’ and rollin’ with so many NEW and beautiful items that have literally been flying off the shelves. Please reach out to Laurie Kavowras and Lisa Erlich to learn more and get SHOPPING.

Thank you for sharing your kindness, warmth and light with us and our other members of our Sisterhood. You each make our community of sisters strong and full of brightness.

With Warmth,

Debbie Toplansky and Lisa Friedman
Sisterhood Co-Presidents



Elijah Ascends to Heaven – Marc Chagall

THE AFTERLIFE IN JEWISH TRADITION AND LORE

WITH LEN HAUSMAN

In the initial 4-session module of this course we will first explore the afterlife through the lens of pilgrimages to the graves of our holy ones. Following that we will delve into the concept of resurrection in Judaism, an afterlife belief few give much thought to and yet is a major theme in our most important prayers.

While the topic of the afterlife may sound, well, funereal - it is anything but! In exploring texts, traditions and folklore relating to death and its aftermath from antiquity up to our present day, we also gain insight into central questions about life, memory, prayer and God that our ancestors struggled with, and maybe us as well. Join us in this journey into an area not often discussed yet richly interesting and fascinating.

ABOUT THE CLASS LEADER

Len Hausman has had an interest in this topic since age 4 when he asked his mother one sleepless night if he will die, and predicting that if so, he would be terribly afraid! He completed a year of training in Israel toward being a teacher in the diaspora, sponsored by the World Zionist Organization. He has enjoyed teaching on a range of subjects, over the years at CBI's Journeymen's Minyan and other venues. He has given a number of presentations on Jewish Views of the Afterlife and on Resurrection in Judaism. Professionally, Len is a psychologist with practices in Greenwich Village, New York and locally.



Monday Mornings

9:30-10:30 a.m.

Four Sessions

January 3, January 10,
January 24, January 31,
2022

Via Zoom!

All Are Welcome!

To register,
please contact:

Rabbi Julie Schwarzwald

Director of
Congregational Learning

rabbijulie@cbi-nj.org
(973) 262-3717

CONGREGATION

B'NAI ISRAEL

160 Millburn Avenue
Millburn, NJ 07041

www.cbi-nj.org

ISRAEL AFFAIRS

By Joe Tenenbaum



We have had quite a time

We are so very lucky to be living in a time when there is a Jewish State, and there are ways to visit that place with a journey of less than a day. In the last couple of years, the ease of travel has been disrupted. For many months, there has been very limited travel to and from Israel.

With the development of more testing, vaccines, boosters and treatments, it became possible for more people to plan trips to Israel.

But Israel, and much of developed world is still worried, and not certain how to respond. The result is that plans are made, and then disrupted or even canceled.

We tried for two years to attend a JNF conference in Israel; students in our community have had multiple plans for Diller Teen trips canceled; and birthright trips are now being scheduled, but not for certain. Other families have missed weddings, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and other family celebrations.

The Israeli government decides week by week what the rules will be for the immediate future. Those of us with close relatives in Israel and very flexible schedules are able to meet the travel requirements and make our trips, but adults with jobs, and students have a more difficult time.

I am so sorry for the missed trips and difficult travel situations which our community has faced.

I appreciate the importance of protecting all of us from disease and I hope that we will be able to stay protected as we return to a more normal life.

I look forward to the day, when traveling to Israel is once again a matter of making plans, and then going.

Israel Affairs Committee

I am looking for volunteers to help lead the way as CBI returns to more pro-Israel activities – planning programs and events, and working towards an expected 2023 trip to Israel.

Missing Soldiers and non-combatants

We must continue to pray for the remaining soldiers to return home:

Guy Hever Yehuda Katz Zvi Feldman

There are also two non-combatant Israelis being held by Hamas in Gaza:

Avera Mangistu Hisham al Sayed

Joe Tenenbaum



To contact Joe Tenenbaum,
email him at TenenbaumJ@AOL.com



Tu B'Shvat Chanting Circle

Join us on Zoom
Sunday, January 9th at 5PM
for our inspirational Hebrew chant and
song circle with musical accompaniment.

Traditionally, Judaism has been skittish about making too much of Mother Nature, fearing a slippery slope toward pagan worship. In the 16th century the Kabbalists of Safed, having no such fear, created the Tu B'Shvat seder and ever since we are less hesitant sacralizing nature, especially on the coming holiday (January 17th) of Tu B'Shvat, and most of all in Israel. Accordingly, this month's theme centers on the magnificence of the natural world as reflected in our liturgy and in the Hebrew Bible.

The intention of chanting is to awaken the divine in our hearts. It can soothe the mind and at the very least is simply fun to do! No prior knowledge of Hebrew or singing ability necessary ... only a willingness to join in spiritual community.

Our 11th Year!

B'NOT MITZVAH



Poppy and Stella Meiler

January 22, 2022

Poppy and Stella Meiler are 7th graders at Millburn Middle School. They've been a part of the CBI family for over 10 years, since starting preschool in the 3's class. Both girls spend their winters skiing black diamonds and their summers at their home away from home, NJY Camps. Poppy is an avid reader, plays softball and, along with her sister, was a competitive cheerleader for years.

Stella is a huge fan of musical theater, takes lessons at the Papermill Playhouse and is currently in rehearsals for the spring show, *Matilda*, at MMS.

For their mitzvah project, Poppy and Stella put their creative skills and pandemic free time to good use making hundreds of mask chains with positive affirmations for the residents of Daughters of Miriam, the senior Jewish facility.

Sharing in this double Simcha are Poppy and Stella's parents, Mark and Samantha, their brother Henry, and grandparents Judi and George Youngman and Genia and Isaak Meiler. They both thank Cantor Wallach, Rabbi Ari and Morah Miriam for their patience and guidance in preparing them for this day.

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Synagogue Fund

Cintha & Daniel Sarano - In honor of the marriage of Natalie to Zack Morse

❖ Henry Bloom & Rabbi Helaine Ettinger

Susan & Michael Jurist - In honor of the wedding of Julia to Jeffrey Maser

❖ Henry Bloom & Rabbi Helaine Ettinger

Rabbi Akiva & Rahel Lubow - In honor of the wedding of Ariel to Allon Vitenson

❖ Henry Bloom & Rabbi Helaine Ettinger

Renee & Kopel Burk - In honor of the birth of your great-granddaughter Nina Lynn

❖ Henry Bloom & Rabbi Helaine Ettinger

Elizabeth Cohen - In memory of your bubbly, Marilyn Glatt Brandwein

❖ Henry Bloom & Rabbi Helaine Ettinger

Ezra Engel - A belated Mazal Tov

❖ Bernard & Veda Engel

Henry Brendzel - In memory of Michael Brendzel

❖ Howard Kessler

Susan & Lawrence Gordon - In honor of your son's wedding

❖ Margot Cohane

Dr. Howard Kessler - In your honor

❖ Margot Cohane

Karen Tucker - In your honor

❖ Margot Cohane

Henry & Roslyn Brendzel - In memory of Michael Brendzel

❖ Carol & Bob Marcus

Henry & Roslyn Brendzel - In memory of Michael Brendzel

❖ Henry Bloom & Rabbi Helaine Ettinger

Andy Cohen - In memory of your beloved father, Lou Cohen

❖ Lori & Larry Pitkowsky

Andy Cohen - In memory of your father, Louis Cohen

❖ Henry Bloom & Rabbi Helaine Ettinger

Andy Cohen - In memory of your father, Louis Cohen

❖ Dan Dovdavyan

Andy Cohen - In memory of your father, Louis Cohen

❖ Howard Kessler

Lisa & Steve Friedman - Mazal Tov on the marriage of Benji to Amanda

❖ Linda & Ross Silver

Jason & Rachel Wininger - Mazal Tov on the Pidyon HaBen of Jim

❖ The Goldberg Family

Rona Breifer - In memory of Maurice Briefer

❖ Roberta Balsam

Gila Isenberg - In memory of Yera Hammer

❖ the Askin-Linver family

Gila Isenberg - In memory of your grandmother

❖ Bob & Carol Marcus

Cantor's Music Fund

❖ Cintha & Daniel Sarano - In honor of the marriage of Natalie to Zack Morse

❖ Terry Hofflich

❖ Elynne & Charles Zucker - In honor of the marriage of Hannah to Warren Samlin

❖ Terry Hofflich

Susan & Larry Gordon - In honor of the marriage of Daniel Gordon to Logan Hanna

❖ Amy & Larry Dantus

The Engels - Sharing the Simha of Ezra & Zoe's First Anniversary

❖ Henry & Wendy Kaplowitz

Andy Cohen - In memory of your father, Louis Cohen

❖ Nan Greenwald

Robin Polson - In memory of your mother

❖ Michael & Nancy Weinstein

Jane & Bob Brauer - In honor of your granddaughter, Ella

- ❖ Michael & Nancy Weinstein
Marion Mohl - Get well soon.
- ❖ Michael & Nancy Weinstein
Len & Anne Hausman - In honor of your daughter's marriage
- ❖ Michael & Nancy Weinstein
Andy Cohen - In memory of your father, Louis Cohen
- ❖ Roz & Jed Buck
Andy Cohen - In memory of your father, Louis Cohen
- ❖ Lisa Less & family

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Susan & Larry Gordon - In honor of the marriage of Andrew Gordon to Logan Hanna

- ❖ Frances Licht
Rabbi Isenberg - Thank you for officiating at our wedding
- ❖ Zack Morse & Natalie Sarano
Rabbi Isenberg - Thank you for the lovely wedding for our son Zack and his bride
- ❖ The Morse family
Mark & Sharon Ingber - In memory of Bernard Eichler
- ❖ Daniel & Jennifer Baer
Henry & Roslyn Brendzel - In memory of Michael Brendzel
- ❖ Frances Licht
Gila Isenberg - In memory of Yera Hammer
- ❖ Phil & Betsy Darivoff
Gila Isenberg - In memory of Yera Hammer
- ❖ The Dovdavany Family
Gila Isenberg - In memory of Yera Hammer
- ❖ Henry Bloom & Rabbi Helaine Ettinger
Gila Isenberg - In memory of Yera Hammer
- ❖ Howard Kessler
Gila & Rabbi Ari isenberg - In memory of Yera Hammer
- ❖ Frances Licht
Gila Isenberg & Family - In memory of Yera Hammer
- ❖ Josh & Lisa Jacobs

Gila Isenberg - In memory of your grandmother

- ❖ David & Barbara Gelband
Gila Isenberg - In memory of Yera Hammer
- ❖ Amy & Larry Dantus

CBI Preschool Fund

Risa Wasserman - In honor of the birth of your grandchild Harper

- ❖ Henry Bloom & Rabbi Helaine Ettinger

Max Gruenewald Adult Ed. Fund

Dr. Cathy Lasser - in memory of Dr. Ellen Lasser LaVee

- ❖ Henry Bloom & Rabbi Helaine Ettinger

Burk-Mendlovitz Youth Fund

Renee & Kopel Burk - In honor of the birth of your great-granddaughter Nina Lynn

- ❖ Wendy & Henry Kaplowitz
Renee & Kopel Burk - In honor of the birth of your great-grandchild
- ❖ Len Hausman & Ann Spector
Tina Burk - In honor of your new grandchild
- ❖ Len Hausman & Ann Spector
Beverly Orel - Happy Birthday!
- ❖ Renee & Kopel Burk
Gila Isenberg - In memory of Yera Hammer
- ❖ Renee & Kopel Burk

Max Alper Prayerbook Fund

The Koster Family - In memory of Arnold Koster

- ❖ Nancy & Joseph Tenenbaum

Hannah Blum Cogan USY-Kadima Fund

Henry & Roslyn Brendzel - In memory of Michael Brendzel

- ❖ The Giladi Family

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We are...

- Rooted in Conservative traditional Jewish values, Torah, our connections to each other, our community, spirituality and Israel • Committed to creating a place where everyone feels comfortable and engaged, and is encouraged to participate • An inclusive, family-friendly, multi-generational, egalitarian congregation that pursues lifelong fulfillment through education, observance and social action • Present and supportive of one another whether celebrating life's joys or sharing its sorrows • Distinguished by passionate professional and lay leadership.

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